Janakpur, broad-guaging of rail link between Raxaul and Sirsia, as well as other projects have been initiated.

BHUTAN

Traditionally close and cordial relations with Bhutan continued to be marked by deep mutual understanding. Bhutanese Foreign Minister and Planning Minister visited India in 1995. From the Indian side, the Foreign Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary visited Bhutan in October and November 1995 respectively.

India continued to be closely associated with Bhutan's developmental efforts. India's participation in Bhutan's on-going 7th Five Year Plan (1992—97) was reviewed during the Plan Talks between the two countries in New Delhi in July 1995. Major projects such as hospitals, schools, roads and bridges, transmission lines, rural electrification, survey projects are underway. The implementation of the 45 MW Kurichu Hydroelectric Project, agreement on which was concluded in September 1995 between Kurichu Project Authority and the NHPC is underway. Among the major projects under consideration are Tala hydroelectric Project (1020 MW) and the Dungsum Cement Plant (1500 TPD capacity).

BANGLADESH

Relations with Bangladesh are cordial. There are a few areas of disagreement. It is our endeavour to focus on finding bilateral solutions to contentious issues such as sharing of river waters, transit question, repatriation of Chakma refugees, illegal immigration from Bangladesh into India and increase in economic cooperation. We are ready for discussion as soon as the situation in Bangladesh permits.

MALDIVES

Relations with Maldives are warm and cooperative. Specific interaction on manning of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, and continuing cooperation in the fields of education, human resource development, medical and para-medical fields and trade continue.

MYANMAR

We have stable and cordial relations with Myanmar. Border trade with Myanmar is continuing. Sectoral level meetings and National level meetings for fostering better cooperation and improving border management continue on schedule. Interactions to prevent smuggling of drugs and narcotics has been achieving good returns.

SRI LANKA

Trade and commerce with Sri Lanka are on the upswing. India has extended a US $ 30 million credit line to Sri Lanka. Politically, relations between the two countries are friendly and continuous dialogue is maintained to advance the mutual interest of both countries through constructive cooperation.

AFGHANISTAN

Despite unstable conditions prevailing in Afghanistan, we have reopened our Embassy in Kabul in May 1995. Bilateral dialogue with the Afghan government on various issues of interest to both sides is continuing. We are receiving Afghan trainees for various technical, educational courses in India under Government of India scholarships. We are providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan Government on a regular basis. The steps taken have strengthened bilateral relations and there is increased understanding of each other's position in every sphere.

सुल्तानपुर में नया उप-डाकघर खोला जाना

680. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को कुल्लू जिले के सुल्तानपुर में

नया उप-डाकघर खोलने के लिए कोई अनुरोध प्राप्त हुआ है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब तक और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

(संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री श्री सुखराम): (क) जी हां।

(ख) कुल्लू जिले में अपर सुल्तानपुर में एक विभागीय उप-डाकघर खोलने के प्रस्ताव पर वार्षिक योजना 1995-96 के दौरान विचार किया गया। अतिरिक्त विभागीय पदों के सृजन पर लगी रोक के कारण इसे अभी तक खोला नहीं जा सका है।

Authorities not permitted to Work in Hindi

681. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the authorities established under various Ministries/ departments which are not permitted to work, hear appeals and give judgements in Hindi under any special law; and

(b) when these authorities were established.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI): (a) and (b) Required information in this regard is being collected from all Ministries/ Deptts. of Govt. of India. The information, on receipt will be laid on the table of the house.

Call charges for cellular phone

682. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount per call charged by the cellular phone operators in the country;

(b) how far the call charges are comparable to the prevailing charges at international level; and

(c) whether Government before giving the licences, had imposed any ceiling on the call charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The tariffs for the phone calls being charged by the three of eight operators of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in 4 metro cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The information is being collected from overseas Telecom. Administrations.

(c) Yes Sir, the ceiling tariffs are given in Statement II.

Statement-I

Copy of letter from M/s. RPG Cellular Services Ltd., New Delhi.

Rates & Services
(Effective 01.01.1996)

Rate Plans	Economy	Standard
Monthly Access Fee	158	158
Monthly Airtime Fee	2000	Based on Usage
Included Standard Airtime minutes per month	300	
Additional Features	Airtime usage exceeding 300 standard minutes will be charged as per basic tariff given below	Airtime usage in standard minutes will be charged as per basic tariff given below.